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MILITARY

YESTERDAY's three-cornered proposal for
the abolition of military
government in Arab-inhabited
frontier areas could

GOVERNMENT scarcely
would have thought, have
come at a more inopportune moment. The afternoons reported the
massing of Egyptian troops in Sinai, probably incorrectly. The Inga Toft had just returned from a costly eight-month wait in Port Said because Nasser has blocked the Suez Canal to Israel and is broadcasting threats to Israel navigation to Eilat and to the headwaters of the Jordan. Administrative steps are being taken against a series of wildly inflammatory Arabic publications printed in Acre by a small group apparently bent on building up an openly anti-Israel Arab party, and claiming a circulation of some 3,000 copies, which would indicate a readership of 10,000 to 15,000.

The anomaly can be understood only in the context of the structure of the present coalition government. A year ago, when the security situation seemed somewhat more favourable, an election-year hue-and-cry was raised over the matter of military government by several parties. Of these Mapam alone may include some genuine believers in a political Messianism that argues that the only thing that prevents the Arabs living in Israel from becoming full and enthusiastic citizens of this State is to be sought in the security restrictions imposed on their movements by the Military Government. Abolish the regulations, and Jewish majority and Arab minority will mingle in perfect harmony without so much as a backward glance at the struggles of the past half-century. Ahut Ha'avoda do not believe this but are unwilling to seem less liberal than Mapam. Mapam, for one, certainly collected many Arab votes on the strength of a promise that the matter would be brought up within a year. Left to themselves, they would have been glad enough to let the matter rest, explaining that there is no majority for abolition of the restrictions, and that therefore there is no purpose in their removing their civilizing influence from the tyrannical Ben-Gurion Government. This was an excellent opportunity for Herut and the Communists to embarrass Mapam by proposing that military government should be abolished, and forcing a vote. The Progressives are similarly committed to support "equal rights," even if these include the right to stage security.

Only the National Religious Party split over the extent of their abstention on the vote, thereby helping to secure the Government's majority. It is a matter of simple arithmetic that if all those who abstained from the vote to symbolize their opposition to military government had voted against it, they would have commanded a majority. The restrictions could have been abolished, though only at the price of the Government itself also falling. Yet the Mapam-Herut-Communist numerical combination that can survive Mapam cannot form a government, and the left wing was forced to yield. What was being tested yesterday was not the need for military government, but the price that the minority parties in the coalition are willing to pay to stay in the Government. Despite the open wrangling the Cabinet has, in a sense, emerged the stronger. It will be stronger still if work is speeded up, as Mr. Ben-Gurion recommended, on redefining the special regulations in such a way as to remove the stigma of "military" rule. This is a device that was originally intended to be temporary as the Armistice Agreement with the Arab states and, like them, stands in need of overhaul at the end of the first decade.

MADRID LETTER

Catalans Wage Cold War

By Richard S. Mowry

SPAIN'S second largest newspaper is slowly being driven to death. Through repeated cancellation of subscriptions and withdrawal of advertising, angry Catalans have brought Barcelona's "La Vanguardia" to the brink of ruin. At the same time they have put the government in a difficult position.

Four months ago La Vanguardia, with advertising revenue down 22-25 percent, had shrivelled to half that. Circulation that hovered around an estimated 150,000 has slumped to 120,000 and is still dropping alarmingly. Letters cancelling subscriptions are coming in at the rate of 50 to 60 a day. Newsstands are returning unopened bundles of the paper which they cannot sell.

The "Catalans' relentless cold war against "La Vanguardia" is aimed specifically at the person of the paper's non-Catalan director, 63-year-old Luis de Galinosa.

A close friend of General Franco for more than two decades, and like the Caudillo a native of Galicia, the portly, hot-tempered Spanish editor has run "La Vanguardia" ever since 1959 when the government gave him the job. Today the government (which appoints and dismisses all top executives of the Spanish press) is faced with the dilemma of firing a loyal servant of the State or seeing a major mouthpiece of the regime fold.

Fury in Catalonia

The trouble started June 21. On that Sunday morning Galinosa was attending Mass in Barcelona's Church of San Ildefonso. When the rector, Narciso Seguer, proceeded to give his sermon in the Catalan language, Galinosa stood up angrily and stalked out. He went around to the sacristy. On his visitation card with the sermon and departed after allegedly using rough language to express what he thought of Catalans.

Later the rector returned the visiting card to Galinosa with a letter suggesting that perhaps the newspaper director had been impersonated by someone.

But Galinosa wrote back that he had left the card at the sacristy by mistake and that it had not been written. He then protested "at having to hear a sermon in a language . . . which I do not understand."

"To be a Spaniard and to go to church in a Spanish city where, aside from Latin, one bears a language . . .

is a forgiving mood. Their intent separatist sentiments

Cellar Addict

By a Special Correspondent

AT 74 they wanted me to go on pension, but I refused and they let me have my own way because they know I'm good for another 20 years." Thus spoke and saluted Abraham Suliman, who came from Kurdistan and has spent the past 56 years at the Wine Cellars of Rishon LeZion.

"When I arrived with many relatives 60 years ago, we settled in Jerusalem. We were white-bearded, mustached, and sharp-eyed Suliman."

"But when the late Gershon Lewin, the first man who knew about wines in the Rothchild Cellars, was coming the country in search of 'Jews with muscles,' he had to come to us. So we came down south. But things were not simple. The bureaucrats of the Rothchild administration absolutely refused to grant us permission to live at Rishon LeZion as long as we were not 'Permanent Workers.' So, after a hard day's hard labour, morning to dusk for there was no electricity and it was hand machinery, we used to walk every evening all the way to Ramle through the fields, to sleep in the Khan of Mr. Glaser. This lasted two years, until we became permanent."

Suliman has been 'permanent' ever since. His original way.

"It happened when Baron Edmund de Rothchild came for a visit. Everybody moved sideways so as to let him pass in the middle, except me, for I had declined using a special course of action.

At the Cinema

Tough Dolls

Du Riff chez les Femmes (Aron), Haifa, is one of the toughest gangster films I have seen for some time. A bank robbery, a night club racket, dope running, a truce made between two gangs in order to cooperate the robbery and then broken through the double-crossing of one of the partners, all culminating in the criminals cutting each other up like a pair of kilikony cats through a mutual slaughter. This is very much the traditional French crime story where black is black and white would be white if anybody was even the slightest bit white and vice versa. French loyalty. Du Riff chez les Femmes differs from its American counterparts not only in its lack of any character with an ultimate hope of salvation for I doubt whether Hollywood would ever depict a bank that did not possess a vindictive and tempestuous streak. Still, for a powerful build up, almost stop excitement and sinister characters, this film supplies the necessary.

BY LOVE POSSESSED
by James Gould Cozzens
Available Everywhere

which a Spaniard has no obligation to understand, appears absurd to me," wrote Galinosa. "I said so to the secretary," he went on, "not as you have said, curiously or uncuriously, but seriously, in a manner corresponding to your indignation."

To the Rektor Seguer replied: "Our church celebrates eight separate Masses every Sunday. In only two of them is the sermon given in the Catalan language. The other six are given in Spanish. If on any other occasion you find it necessary to go early at 6.30 o'clock, it is a Mass explained in Spanish and it is attended by many domestic maids..."

Plan for Mercy

News of the incident spread slowly throughout Catalonia by word of mouth. By November it had become a main topic of conversation. At this point public boycott of Galinosa's paper got under way. Anonymous letters received urging them to stop advertising in "La Vanguardia"; they did so. On some days in December early risers saw thousands of torn-up copies of "La Vanguardia" littering the streets. One day last month the plain glass windows of the main office of "La Vanguardia" was smashed.

Painted signs appeared on buildings and sidewalks saying:

"Forza Galinosa" (Catalan for "Galinosa get out").

"La Vanguardia's worried proprietor, Count of Godo, asked Galinosa to come fail to pay and resign. (The government does not allow newspaper owners to dismiss employees at will). But so far Galinosa has refused to quit.

He has, however, appealed to the Catalans for mercy.

On January 19 his paper and all other dailies in Barcelona published an article signed by the government: "Affection to Catalonia."

Most of the article emphasized Galinosa's love for the Catalans and all he had done for them over the years.

At the end he asked to be judged by my acts and not by my words... words attributed to me which I have refused to quit.

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